

BATH AND NORTH EAST SOMERSET COUNCIL

STANDARDS COMMITTEE HEARING

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 20TH JULY 2010

Present:- Cllr Eleanor Jackson, Cllr Axel Palmer, Cllr Veronica Packham, Cllr Nigel Roberts, Sue Toland (Chair), Cllr Gordon Wood (substitute)

Also in attendance: Vernon Hitchman (Council Solicitor), Ann Swabey (Democratic Services Officer)

10 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

11 EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE

The Clerk read out the procedure.

12 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS

Apologies were received from Dr Cyril Davies, Joy Fraser, Alun Morgan, Cllr. Robert Butt

13 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

14 TO ANNOUNCE ANY URGENT BUSINESS AGREED BY THE CHAIR

There was none.

15 ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were none.

16 ITEMS FROM COUNCILLORS AND CO-OPTED MEMBERS RELATING TO THE

There were none.

17 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: 24TH JUNE 2010

The public minutes were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

18 STANDARDS COMMITTEE HEARING PROCEDURE

The Committee considered the following complaint using this procedure.

19 CONSIDERATION OF AN INVESTIGATING OFFICER'S REPORT CONCERNING ALLEGATION OF BREACHES OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT BY A COUNCILLOR – CASE NO 01-10 KTC-B&NES (PAGES 7-70)

The Committee **RESOLVED** that, having been satisfied that the public interest would be better served by not disclosing relevant information and in accordance with the provisions of section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the

public be excluded from the meeting for this item of business because of the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 1 and 2 of Part 1 of schedule 12A of Act as amended.

The Investigating Officer summarised his report. The Committee adjourned to consider their decision.

20 RE-ADMISSION OF THE PUBLIC

The Committee re-convened in public session and announced their decision:

They **RESOLVED** that, having carefully considered the Investigating Officer's report: at the meeting of the Norton Radstock Ring and Ride held on 4th March 2009:

- (i) Councillor Simmons did not treat a Council officer with respect and therefore failed to comply with paragraph 3(1) of the Code of Conduct;
- (ii) Councillor Simmons brought Bath & North East Somerset Council and his office into disrepute, in breach of paragraph 5 of the Code;

The Committee further decided that the following sanctions be imposed on Councillor Simmons:

- a) That he writes a letter of apology to the Complainant
- b) That he receives training on the proper conduct of the relationship between officers and Councillors
- c) That he be suspended from his Council duties on any decision-making body for the period of one month from July 21st 2010, with the exception of duties related to his position as a ward councillor.

The Chair thanked everyone for their contributions.

The meeting closed at 7.05pm.

Chair's signature

Date confirmed and signed.....